



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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June 26, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist *LK*

RE: Site Inspection, Sierra Stone, Inc., Sierra Starlight Quarry, M/003/049, Box Elder County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 19, 2002
Time of Inspection: 8:30 a.m.
Conditions: Partly cloudy, warm
Participants: Paul Baker and Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To familiarize staff with site prior to finalizing LMO permit review and verify vegetation information provided in the notice.

Observations:

The gate on the main access road was locked. Access to the site was gained via a two-track road through a cattle driveway, which connected to the main access road about one mile above the gate. About two miles from the gate, it was noted that the road had recently been regraded. Apparently this was done when snow was on the road since soil materials were beyond the road berm, with no apparent tracks to where the soil materials were. It was estimated that the road disturbance was widened an average of 10 feet from this point to the quarry - a total distance of approximately 10,036 feet, (2.3 acres).

Approximately 3/4 mile from the quarry, we came upon new disturbance which was being used to store equipment (loader and haul truck) and palleted stone (70 pallets of stone were observed). The stone was tagged with 'Interstate Rock Products' tags. The area was surveyed with the GPS. New disturbance at this site is approximately 0.68 acres. This area is not identified on the permit area maps. Approximately halfway between this new area and the quarry, it was noted that the road had been re-aligned with a series of switchbacks. The new road construction averaged 36 feet wide for 1675 feet (1.38 acres). The old road has not been reclaimed. The road re-alignment is not identified in the current permit, or the proposed large mining notice.

Upon arrival at the quarry, it was noted that new disturbance has been created to the south of the quarry. This disturbance is outside the approved small mining permit area, but appears to be the beginning of a new road to access the quarry as identified in the proposed large mining notice. Several pallets of stone were observed in the quarry, each being tagged with the same 'Interstate Rock Products' tags that were observed on the new staging area. The operator has not marked the permit area for the small mining operations as previously requested. A GPS survey of the recent re-affected disturbances and

new disturbance areas at the quarry identified 6.59 acres are being used in the quarry area. Total acreage currently being used at this site is 10.95 acres.

Fuel storage containers observed on site did not have secondary containment structures. A 50 gallon barrel of what appeared to be diesel fuel was leaking from the spigot. NOTE: the submitted notice states that onsite fuel storage containers will have secondary containment of at least 110% of their capacity.

Vegetation observations made adjacent to the quarry indicate that there is approximately 80% ground cover. The reclamation success standard for this site would be 56% ground cover. Species observed included basin wildrye, quaking aspen, chokecherry, snowberry, mountain big sage, bluebells, phlox, bulbous bluegrass, and wild geranium.

Several photos were taken to document site conditions.

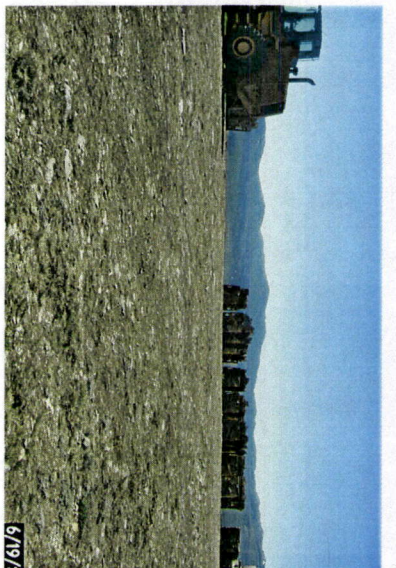
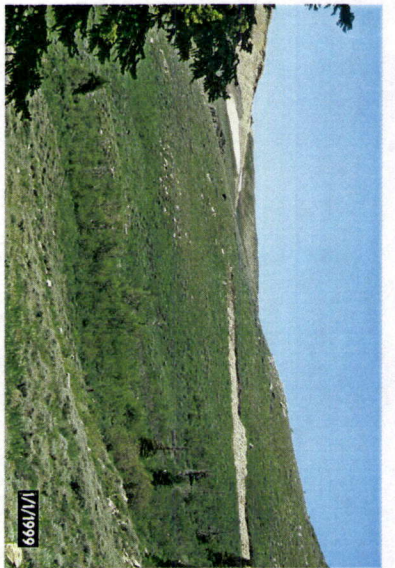
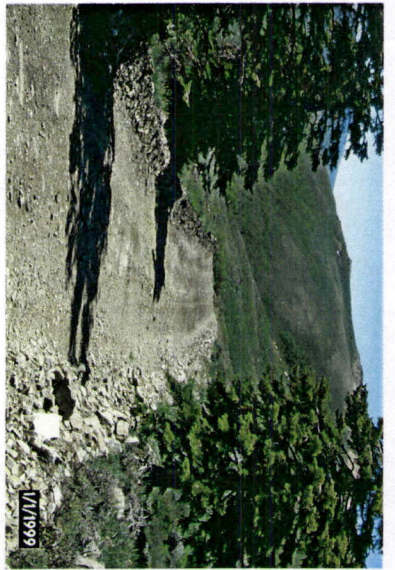
Conclusions:

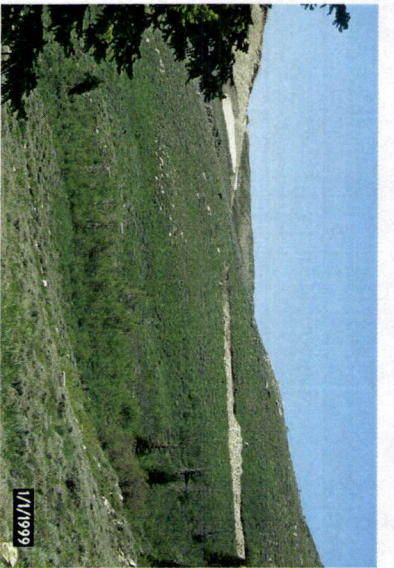
This site has exceeded the five acre limit for small mining operations. While the operator has submitted a large mining notice, it has not yet been approved (currently under review by Division staff). The operator has not provided reclamation surety to the Division for this site. New disturbances observed are outside the current small mining permit, and are also outside the boundary identified on the large mining notice currently being reviewed. While the new disturbance to the south of the quarry appears to be for the new access road to the quarry, it is not being constructed on the location identified on the proposed maps (off by about 100 feet). The fuel storage at the site is not in accordance with the permit. This site is not being operated in compliance with the rules or the approved permit.

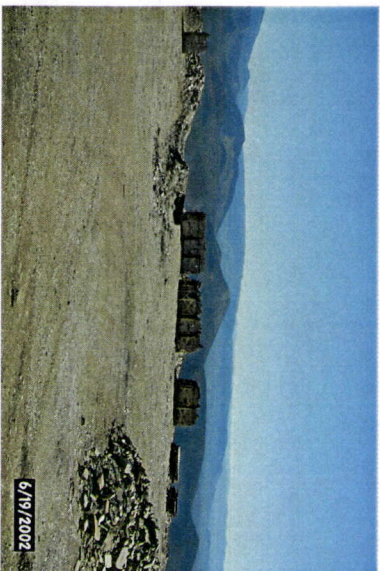
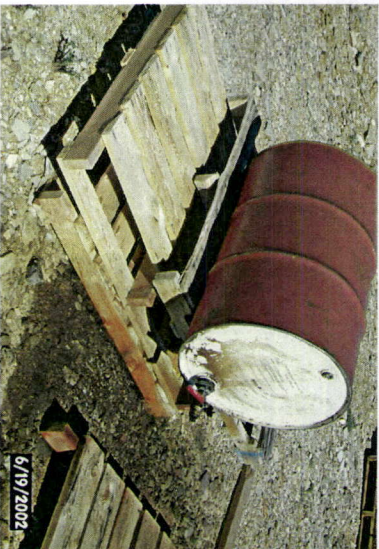
Recommendations:

The operator should be sent a Notice of Non-Compliance. The notice should identify operating outside the permit area; increasing the disturbed area beyond five acres without first obtaining Division approval; and not providing an acceptable form and amount of reclamation surety prior to expanding beyond five acres. Mitigation should require submission of a transitional surety, revising permit area maps to correctly identify areas of current disturbance (including the widening and re-alignment of the existing access road), and operations should be suspended until the transitional reclamation surety is approved by the Division. The operator should permanently mark the boundary of the proposed large mining operations.

jb
cc: Ernie Hale, Sierra Stone
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Sierra Stone, Inc.

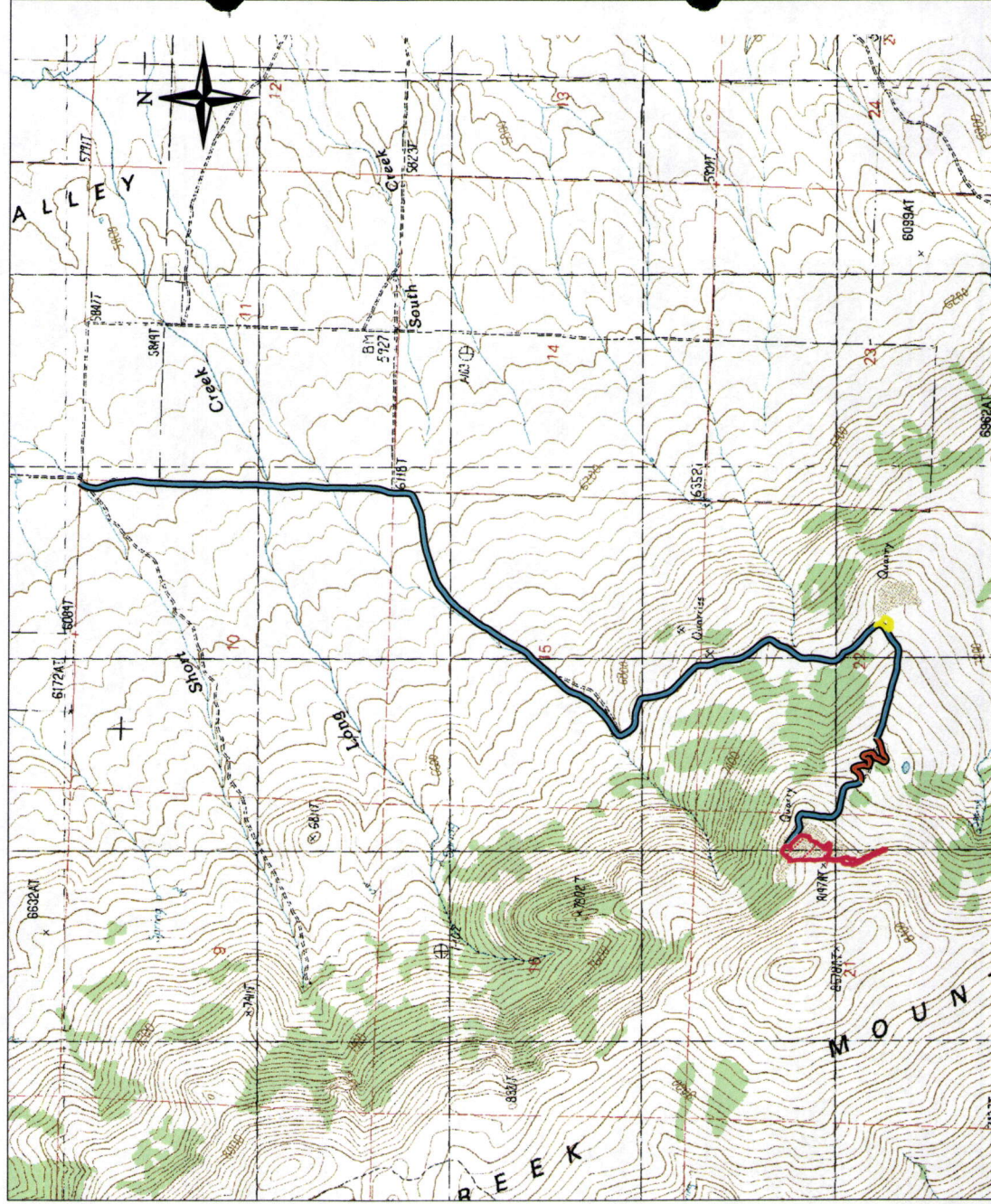
Sierra Starlight Quarry

M/003/049

Cotton Thomas Quad



SE/4 of NE/4, and NE/4 of SE/4
Section 21;
South/2 of Section 22;
T 14 N, R 17 W, SLBM



Prepared by DOGM 6-20-02



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